

GENERAL NOTES

Further notes on the Pinnated Bittern in Mexico and Central America.—Since the description of the Mexican form of the Pinnated Bittern, *Botaurus pinnatus caribaeus* (Dickerman, Wilson Bull., 73:333–335, 1961), 17 additional specimens have been collected in Mexico and Central America that substantiate the color characters used to describe *caribaeus* and add to our knowledge of the species' range. One of these from Costa Rica was previously reported by Slud (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 128:43–44, 1964). Slud (p. 44) questioned the validity of the Mexican form *caribaeus*, but apparently misunderstood the characters of the latter race. Wing and tail length, stressed by Slud, were not utilized as characters, and the bill of the Costa Rican bird matches South American *pinnatus*, as it should. Slud's statement that his bird "approaches the description of *caribaeus* in general appearance" may be discounted, as he saw no specimens of that form. Actually, in coloration, the specimen is typical of the nominate race. Some of the 11 recent Mexican specimens are worn and faded; however, fresh-plumaged Mexican birds are definitely paler, less ochraceous than fresh-plumaged Central or South American specimens (see list of specimens examined below). This is most dramatic in the color of the auriculars, which are sandy buff in *caribaeus* in contrast to ochraceous buff in *pinnatus*. In series, ventrally, *caribaeus* is whiter, less buffy. The auriculars of the juvenile *caribaeus* from Tabasco (Dickerman, *ibid.*:334) are richer than are those of adults, and thus approximate the color of the auriculars in the nominate form. A second juvenile *caribaeus* beginning the first prebasic molt was taken 14 August near Lerdo de Tejada, Veracruz.

The exposed culmen of *caribaeus* averages slightly longer than the exposed culmen of *pinnatus*. The measurements are: seven female *caribaeus* 84–91 mean (87.4); nine female *pinnatus* 78–87 (82.9); ten male *caribaeus* 87–96 (91.9); thirteen male *pinnatus* 82–104 (89.5).

Additional Specimens Examined.—*Botaurus pinnatus caribaeus*: Veracruz: 2 mi. W. Tecolutla (3); 2 mi. E, 2 mi. S Tlacotalpan (2); Ingenio San Cristobal [= near Cosamaloapan] (1); Lerdo de Tejada (5). Tabasco: 14 mi. S. Villahermosa (1); Yucatan: 2 mi. S Progreso (1).

Botaurus pinnatus pinnatus: Costa Rica: Finca Taboga, Departamento de Guanacaste (1); Nicaragua: 11 mi. S San Carlos, Departamento de Rio San Juan (1); El Salvador: Laguna Jocotal, Departamento de San Miguel (1).

The specimens from Yucatan and El Salvador are the first record of the species from those areas.

I wish to thank Dr. Thomas R. Howell, University of California, Los Angeles and Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr., Louisiana State University, for permission to examine recently taken specimens in those respective collections. Scientific collecting permits were provided by the Departamento de Conservacion de la Fauna Silvestre, Secretaria de Agricultura y Ganaderia of the Mexican Government.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, Department of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical School, New York, New York, 18 May 1971.

Chronology of hatching by laying sequence in Canada Geese.—Prince, et al. (Auk, 86:762–763, 1969) found a high correlation between the sequence of laying and the order of hatching in artificially incubated Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) eggs. There is no evidence of this same correlation in the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). During